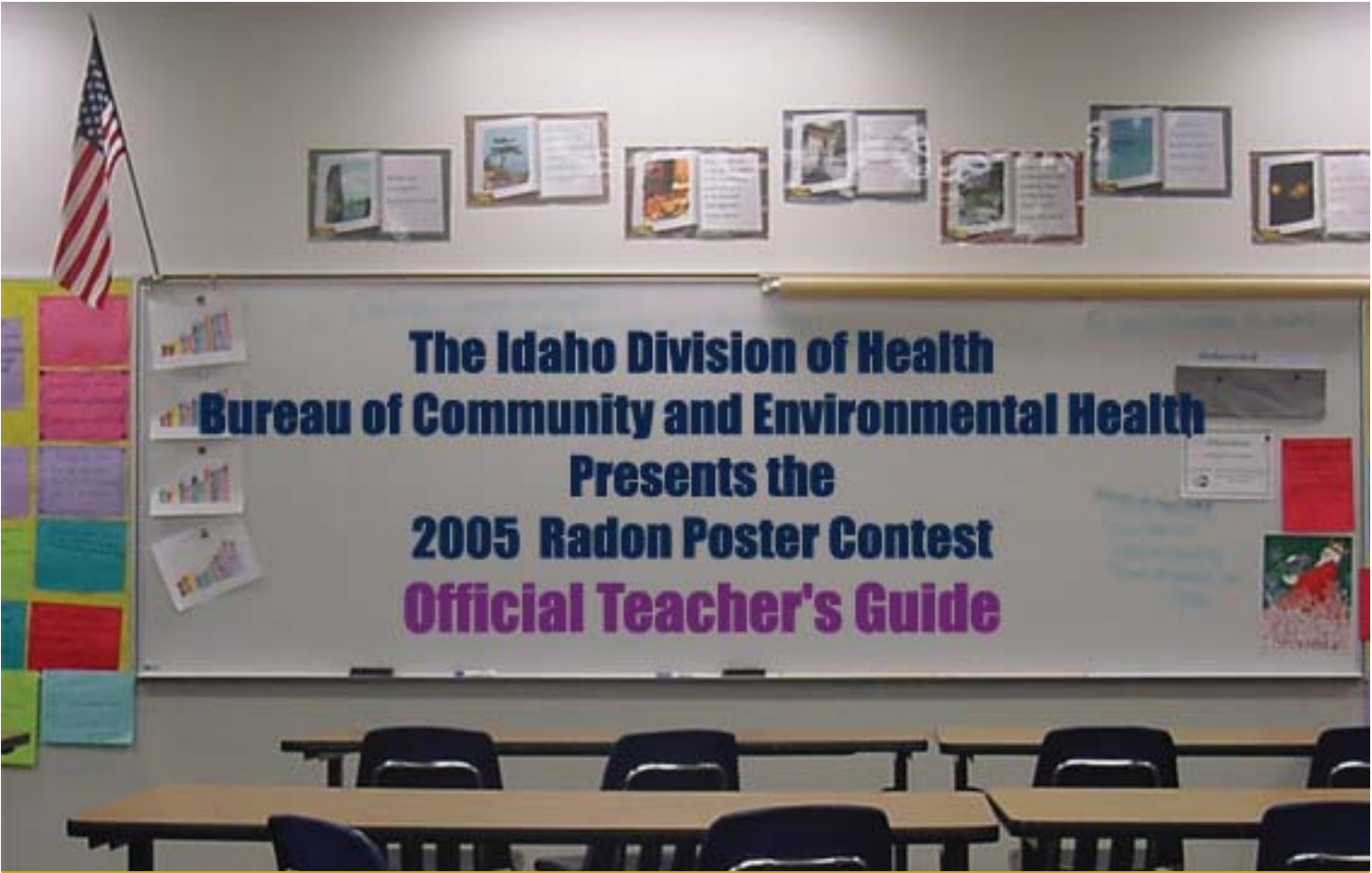


Your Role

Students are competing on three different levels. First, you or someone you choose, will judge all poster entries. Then you send in the five best posters from each category (ten posters total) with their contest entry form. Those ten winners will then compete on a regional level (the regions are defined by health department boundaries). Each health department has a staff member that will select the top four (two from each category) from their region. The top 2 will move on to compete on a statewide level for the grand prize.

The posters should be scored using the criteria illustrated in the chart below. We encourage you to use this criteria when selecting your top five entries.

	Outstanding 5 points	Good 3 points	Room for Improvement 1 point
Content	The entry describes what the contestant sees and feels. It defines the many levels of the problem(s). It questions why the problem(s) exists. It develops action plans to address the problem(s).	The entry somewhat describes what the contestant sees and feels. It defines some of the levels of the problem(s). It questions why the problem(s) exists. It somewhat develops an action plan to address the problem(s).	The entry does not describe what the contestant sees and feels. It does not define the many levels of the problem(s). It does not question why the problem(s) exists. It does not develop action plans to address the problem(s).
Formatting	Formatting catches the reader's attention and assists them in locating important information. Formatting enhances the flow of the poster. Creative.	Formatting is logical and easy to follow. Formatting allows reader to find all necessary information.	Formatting does not have good flow. The reader may be confused by the order of information. The reader may not be able to easily find important information.
Appearance	Poster text is typed neatly with no correction marks. Text is straight. All words can be easily read from a distance of 2 feet.	Typed or written neatly with no more than three (3) correction marks. Text lines are straight and are easily read. Most words can be easily read from a distance of 2 feet.	Not typed or not written neatly. More than 3 correction marks. Text does not line up consistently. Difficult to read. Many words can not be read from a distance of 2 feet.
Graphics	Graphics are neat and address the topic. Writing, coloring, and pictures are well done.	Graphics are neat and address the topic. Writing, coloring, and pictures are well done, not perfect.	Graphics are not neat and/or do not address the topic. Writing, coloring, and pictures were not carefully completed.



Radon Poster Contest Co-Sponsors:



Funding provided through a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

Invitation to Participate

You have an exciting opportunity to engage your student's research, critical thinking, and creative skills. The Bureau of Community and Environmental Health invites you and your students to participate in our annual poster contest.

After selecting from the list of provided topics, each student should create a poster to educate others about the issue s/he has chosen. We will need you to select the top five posters in both the hand drawn and computer generated categories. Please use the judging criteria provided you on the back of this brochure. The selected topics this year are: 1. What is radon? 2. Where is radon found? Where does radon come from? 3. Health effects of radon. 4. Depiction of a radon test being performed. 5. Depiction of ways to reduce radon in your house. 6. Depiction of a house structure undergoing Radon Resistant New Construction.

So, what is radon? Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the natural breakdown of uranium found in most rocks and soil. In some cases, well water may be a source of radon. You cannot see it, smell it or taste it. Outdoors, radon mixes with fresh air and is usually diluted to low levels.

However, once inside an enclosed building, such as a home or school, radon can build up to high levels. The amount of radon indoors depends on how easily the radon can travel through the soil (permeability), how the building is constructed, and the amount of radon in the soil underneath the building.

Radon can be found all over the U.S., in old and new homes, and in homes with and without basements. Long periods of exposure can increase the risk of lung cancer. At the present time, this is the only known health effect. There is no evidence that exposure to radon causes headaches, asthma, allergies, or other respiratory illnesses. The Surgeon General has warned that, next to smoking, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. Smoking combined with exposure to radon is an especially serious health risk.

Resources

Idaho Bureau of Community and Environmental Health
<http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov> Keyword: Radon

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Website on Radon
<http://www.epa.gov/radon>

How Stuff Works, "How Radon Works"
<http://science.howstuffworks.com/radonhtm>

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp145.html>

Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors. Inc.
<http://crcpd.org/radon.asp>

National Institute of Health MedlinePlus
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/radon.html>

National Environmental Health Association, National Radon Proficiency Program
<http://www.radongas.org>

National Radon Safety Board
<http://www.nrsb.org>

Radon Information Center
<http://www.radon.com>

Contest Entry Form

(Please photocopy this page)

Complete one form for each of the top five entries in both the hand drawn and computer generated categories (a total of ten). Entries should be mailed to:

Chris Corwin
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
Bureau of Community and Environmental Health
450 W. State Street
Boise, ID 83720

Entries must be postmarked by **February 4, 2005.**

Contact Information (please print in blue or black ink)

Contestant's Name _____ School Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Name of School Contact _____

Phone Number of School Contact _____ Class _____ Grade _____

Entries and other submitted material become the property of the Idaho Division of Health. Entries will not be returned. Entries without a Contest Entry Form/parental permission form signed by a parent or legal guardian will be disqualified. The Idaho Division of Health is authorized to copyright, use and publish for any lawful purpose whatsoever contest submissions, in whole or in part or composite or distorted in character or form in conjunction with participant's name or otherwise or reproductions thereof in color or otherwise made through any medium.

Parents or legal guardians of all entrants further agree to indemnify, protect and hold harmless the Idaho Division of Health, its co-sponsors, agents, employees and all persons or organizations providing services for the contest from any claim or liability whatsoever as a result of entrant's participation in the contest.

By entering, parents or legal guardians of all entrants agree to be bound by the decisions of the judges and these Official Contest Rules and to accept all of the conditions, restrictions, requirements, and/or regulations required by the Sponsor and Co-sponsors. Don't forget to get parental/legal guardian signatures of the top ten entries so we can publish the names of the winners.

Parental/Legal Guardian Permission

I represent and warrant that I am of majority age and that I am the parent or legal guardian of the child named above. I have read and agree to the Official Contest Rules as a condition of my child's participation in said contest.

Signed _____ Print Parent/Guardian Name _____

Date _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____